

AmendmentsIn the Claims:

Please cancel claims 35, 44-56, 58 and 59 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the remaining claims to read as follows:

34. **(Amended)** A process for maturing dendritic cells, comprising:

C<sup>1</sup> culturing mononuclear cells together with hyaluronic acid fragments in order to cause the mononuclear cells to mature irreversibly into dendritic cells,

wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments comprises from 2 to 12 building blocks, and wherein said building block comprises D-glucuronic acid and N-acetyl-D-glucosamine linked by a  $\beta$ 1-3 glycosidic bond.

38. **(Amended)** The process of claim 34, wherein the mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are concentrated using an antibody that is directed against the CD14 surface marker.

C<sup>2</sup> 39. **(Amended)** The process of claim 34, wherein the mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are cultured in a medium that contains GM-CSF at a concentration from 5,000 to 10,000 U/mL and IL-4 at a concentration from 100 to 1,000 U/mL.

41. **(Amended)** The process of claim 34, wherein the mononuclear cells possess a CD14 surface marker and are cultured for 72 hours to 7 days in a medium containing GM-CSF and IL-4.

C<sup>3</sup> 42. **(Amended)** The process of claim 34, wherein the mononuclear cells are cultured together with hyaluronic acid fragments for at least 48 hours.

43. **(Amended)** The process of claim 34, wherein the hyaluronic acid fragments are chemically modified.

C4 57. (Amended) (A vaccine comprising dendritic cells that have been matured by a processes according to claim 34.

Please add the following new claim

C5 60. (New) The process of claim 34, wherein said hyaluronic acid fragments are present at a concentration of 30 to 50  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .